

Atlanta Ham

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

SEPTEMBER 2001

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Paul Toth, NA4AR

AO-40 GIVES EARTHLINGS ANOTHER SCARE

AO-40's S1 transmitter recently failed after only a short time of operation.

Source: ARRL Letter

Sighs of relief were heard around the world as the 2.4-GHz S2 beacon aboard the AO-40 satellite reappeared August 28 after an ominous absence. The beacon failed to return as scheduled on Orbit 381 after the RUDAK connections shut off.

Gunter Wertich, DF4PV, who is equipped for moon-bounce work, reported hearing normal telemetry blocks very weakly, however, so ground controllers were assured that the onboard computer had not crashed. Ground controller Stacey

Mills, W4SM, suspected--correctly, as it turned out--that a solid-state matrix connection had not properly latched up and that DF4PV was hearing "bleed through" of the middle beacon through

the IF matrix.

When the satellite came into view at Mills' Virginia location, he manually cycled the middle beacon-to-S2 transmitter connec-

(Continued on page 8)

September Happenings...

Sept 15, 2001 Paulding ARC Dallas, GA
<http://www.pauldingarc.com>

Sept. 22, 2001 SCITREK

Saturday 12PM-3PM

Contact: Penn, K4PE

Once again we staff the STARS station. This is a good opportunity to meet some folks and promote the hobby.

Candidates for ARRL Southeastern Div. Vice Director

In October... Meet GA Section Man. Sandy Donahue, W4RU

Paul J. Toth, NA4AR has announced his candidacy for ARRL Southeastern Division Vice Director. Toth is seeking the post being vacated at the end of this year by Evelyn Gauzens, W4WYR who is retiring after twenty years.

Toth, 51, of Seminole, Florida is an Extra Class operator. He was first licensed in 1995 as KB2WZN. He has also held the callsign K2SEC. Toth is currently a Southeastern Division Assistant Director and

Assistant Section Manager of the West Central Florida Section. He led the campaign in 1999 to create the West Central Florida Section. Toth was previously an Assistant Director in the Hudson Division and served as Section Emergency Coordinator and Public Information Coordinator in the Northern New Jersey Section.

In addition to his ARRL activities, Toth currently serves as Regional Amateur Ra-

(Continued on page 4)

THE ATLANTA HAM

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Submit articles:

Atlanta Radio Club
Attn: HAM EDITOR
PO BOX 942150
Atlanta, Georgia 31141

Contact the editor for available formats to transfer material.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS IS THE 21ST OF EACH MONTH!

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THE ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, W4DOC

Originally known as the "Atlanta Wireless Club," the Atlanta Radio Club is one of the oldest and largest amateur radio clubs in the United States. With nearly 200 members, the Club sponsors numerous activities and services for its membership and for the Atlanta area amateur radio community.

The Club is best known for its sponsorship of the annual Atlanta HamFestival, a Saturday event which hosts many vendors, exhibitors, and flea marketers of amateur radio equipment and other electronic equipment, including computers



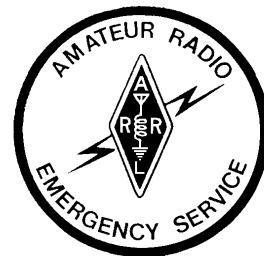
Bank of America Tower
Site of Atlanta Repeaters:
146.2(-), 224.34(-) and 444.825(+)

W4DOC REPEATERS

The Atlanta Radio Club operates six repeaters at two locations. Currently our most active project is at the Bank of America Tower where we operate three repeaters at 146.82(-), 224.34 (-), and 444.825(+). All our repeaters are undergoing extensive renovations during the summer of 2000. On the web, go to <http://www.saf.com/arc/repeater.pdf> for a Acrobat 4.0 diagram of what we plan to have on the air by late spring or summer 2001

Our second location is the WFOX broadcast tower at Chestnut Mountain, south of Gainesville, GA. We operate three repeaters on 145.35(-) & 444.45 (+) . These repeaters are being renovated under the expert guidance of Tim, WK4U, and should also be on the air before January 1, 2001. For pictures of that site, see <http://www.saf.com/arc/wfox.html>

ASSOCIATE ORGANIZATIONS



MEETING NOTICE

WHEN: Thursday September 6, 2001 730pm

WHERE: The Red Cross Training Rooms
Lindbergh Plaza, Sidney Marcus
& Piedmont Ave

TALK IN: 146.820

DINNER: The Picadilly Cafeteria located in the same building. We dine around 615PM

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – PENN K4PE

Thank you! You gave me, Dennis, Charles and David the extraordinary privilege of leading the Atlanta Radio Club for 2001-2002. We will try hard to live up to your expectations. Remember that while leadership is important to a club, it is ultimately up to its members for it to remain successful.

I can think of at least four great ways to participate in and stay apprised of Club activities:

- (1) Operate on our flagship 2M FM repeater, 146.82.
- (2) Attend monthly club meetings. You have my personal commitment that we will put on enjoyable, educational programs.
- (3) Join and participate in our e-mailing list. You can find directions at <http://www.saf.com/arc> If you want to know more about how our club conducts it's business, read our bylaws at <http://www.saf.com/arc/bylaws.htm>
- (4) Help out with the Atlanta Hamfest, scheduled for June 1, 2002.

There are many other options to be involved in our club, so where do you start? Well, the guiding principle is that Amateur Radio is a service. The ARC is a service organization. So what I hope you think is "how can I offer the most service to our community." "Community" might mean the local VHF scene or the Hamfest; or it might even tell you to participate in Field Day to prepare for field emergency communications. (If someone told you that you had 30 minutes to evacuate your home, would you take a ham radio with you? I would.)

I found more reasons to be involved in service organizations at kidshealth.org and I rewritten and adapted their essay for our club. Hey, at least I admit a little plagiarism and give them credit for the bullet points!

It feels good. There is something quintessentially good about doing
(continued page 7)

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Hamfest Chairman
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Repeater Manager
770-394-9052
andyk@hvbi.com

SPECIAL EVENT STATION

Fort Prospect, KwaZulu Natal, South Africa: Midlands Amateur Radio Club, ZS1ØØABW, 1400Z Sept 22 to 1400Z Sept 23, commemorating the Centenary of the Anglo Boer South African War, 40 20 meters. Certificate. Midlands ARC, PO Box 100220, Scottsville, 3209, South Africa.

Henri-Chapelle, Belgium: GDV Group ON5PL, ON4USA, 0800Z Sept 8 to 1600Z Sept 9, honoring the memory of all GIs who gave their lives, 14.044 14.210 21.044 28.044.

QSL. ON4USA, Post Office Box 11, Verviers 1, BE, B-4800, Belgium.

NA4AR...

radio Coordinator for the National Weather Service SKYWARN program on Florida's West Coast. He was instrumental in establishing Amateur Radio Station WX4TBW at the National Weather Service office in Ruskin, FL in 1998. Toth held a similar position with the SKYWARN program for the National Weather Service office in Mt. Holly, NJ and was awarded the NOAA Public Service Commendation in 1997 for his efforts.

Toth's decision to seek the Vice Director's post was motivated by the challenges facing Amateur Radio. "This is a time of transition for Amateur Radio and the ARRL. Our hobby and our ability to serve our communities is threatened by the proliferation of Deed Restrictions and Covenants. Amateur Radio operators are not being "reasonably accommodated" in the Southeastern Division and many other parts of the United States. This is a serious problem we must address for the survival of the Amateur Radio Service", declared the candidate. "We must get back to the concept of a person's private property is his castle."

Other challenges, according to Toth, include the FCC's loud, clear message about modernization, continuing pressures for bandwidth from commercial interests and the unprecedented incursion into several Amateur Radio bands by unlicensed, Part 15 operators. "We must stand fast to protect our spectrum", Toth declared. "The unlicensed, commercial use of our 900 MHz and 2.4 GHz allocations has made it difficult for the development of broadband Amateur Radio intranets, ATV and other uses of the spectrum. We cannot allow our bands to be usurped."

Toth supports the ARRL's current efforts to realign the 40 meter band worldwide and carve out a new 5 MHz band for Amateur Radio. "Forty meters is one of our most valuable Public Service and Emergency Communications assets," noted Toth. "It is in everyone's best interest to make this band usable round the clock. This effort and the work being done to create a new 5 MHz band will enhance our long distance communications ca-

(Continued on page 7)



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WORLDWIDE DISTRIBUTION

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TS-2000 HF/VHF/UHF TCVR

- 100W HF, 6M, 2M • 50W 70CM
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Call Now For Your Low Price!

GEORGIA - Sep. 28-29

SOUTHEASTERN ANTIQUE RADIO SOCIETY
FALL SWAP MEET

Alpharetta, GA - Fairfield Inn

11385 Haynes Bridge Rd. - Exit 9, Ga. Hwy. 400

(770) 663-4000 - Special rate for attendees

Fri.: 7 pm - "No Host" dinner at a local restaurant

Sat.: 8 am-Noon - Flea Market

Info: Gordon Hunter - (770) 475-0713

METRO TESTING SESSIONS

Call ahead to verify session and be prepared with the appropriate forms and required papers. A small fee may be charged. Check with the VEC

First Sunday WCARS VEC
2:00 PM (Except July and September)
Johnson High School
3305 Poplar Springs Road, Gainesville
Terry Jones, W4TL (770)967-6364

Second Tuesday 7:00 PM
Walton EMC Building
3645 Lenora Church Road, Snellville
Wayne Taylor, WD4CCA (770)498-7759

Second SaturdayCA VEC 8:30 AM
Stone Mountain Methodist Church
5312 West Mountain Street, Stone Mountain
Hal Martin, K14RD (770)978-9160

Third SaturdayCA VEC 9:00 AM
Marietta First United Methodist Church
Room 305
56 Whitlock Avenue, Marietta
Larry Huff, WA4CQZ (770)955-3171

Fourth Tuesday ARRL VEC 7:00 PM
United Way Service Center
6279 Fairburn Road, Douglasville
Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770)942-6466

Fourth FridayW5YI VEC 7:00 PM
St. John Neumann Church
801 Tom Smith Road, Lilburn
Headphones provided
Howie Gould, W9HG (770)921-8362

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2001

We are still looking at a few places to hold a once a month Saturday W4DOC Breakfast. Have a favorite place to eat breakfast that can accommodate a small group of folks, let us know!

STARS – SEPTEMBER 22, 2002 12pm – 3pm SCITREK

ATLANTA HAMFEST 2002... Always looking for volunteers. This is a good chance to have some fun and see what goes on behind the scenes in planning for a Hamfest. Jobs are easy, give me a

REPEATER NEWS...

Thanks to the enormous effort by Dennis, KF4MHW, 444.45 is back on the air from NE Georgia. It can be worked north of Cumming to the North and South Carolina line. It has good coverage! Let me know if you can work it. Don't forget to use a PL of 146.2Hz.

145.35 is also on the air from the same location in NE Georgia, but it is comparatively deaf. I doubt you will be able to bring it up. They are linked together at the moment, so if you can bring up 444.45 you will hear a loud signal on 145.35. However, it will be very difficult if not impossible to work 145.35 directly. If you can hear a 145.35 machine in north Atlanta, that would be our repeater on the air from near Lennox Square. It has been on the air for many months, but will come down once we deploy on FOX. So at the moment, the ARC actually has two repeaters operating on 145.35!

Dennis and I will return to this location this weekend to see if we can improve the sensitivity of the northern 145.35. The northern 444.45 and 145.35 machines currently in operation are the actual repeaters that we will deploy on the FOX tower. Dennis has done a incredible job of putting this system together.

A reminder: I have received two emails from club members wondering why they suddenly couldn't access 146.82 anymore. After the installation of several receivers on August 18, PL is now required for all except special occasions. If you are having trouble hitting the repeater but you can hear it, chances are you're not transmitting a PL of 146.2 Hz. I have a goal of making more receivers carrier operated, but it may take several months to get there, if at all.

146.82 is receiving heavy usage and no one is happier than me about that. I think some hams think they're supposed to wait until the carrier drops before they key up. When you do let it drop for a second, then key up, you're putting a little more stress on the relays, power supplies and the PA. In theory, a long QSO on a repeater shouldn't let the repeater unkey. When it's your turn, you're supposed to key up AFTER the courtesy tone and BEFORE the repeater unkeys. That delay is to allow a conversation to continue without keying and unkeying the repeater's transmitter.

SIGNMAN of Baton Rouge



ORDER THE W4DOC BADGE!



The Atlanta Amateur Radio Club badge has a SILVER background with BLUE letters and the CLUB LOGO in GOLD. The distinctive Atlanta skyline; designed by Roy Epps, K4UWO; makes this name tag unique. The ARC badge is \$8.75 (includes s&h).

79Castle Kirk Drive
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(225) 757-1545 Phone (225) 766-9387 Fax
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<http://thesignman.com>

FOR MORE INFORMATION WWW.SAF.COM/ARC

SEPTEMBER 2001 CONTESTING SCHEDULE

ARRL September VHF QSO Party. See July QST, p 112.

Worked All Europe Contest, phone. See Aug QST, p 111.

North American Sprint, CW, sponsored by NCJ, 0000-0400Z Sep 9 (local time, Sep 8); phone is 0000-0400Z Sep 16 (local time, Sep 15). Sprints are separate. 80, 40, 20 only. North American stations work everyone; others work NA stations only. Exchange other station's call, your call, serial no., name, and state/province/DXCC entity. 3.540 3.850 7.040 7.225 14.040 14.275. Work stations once per band. QSY rule: Stations calling CQ, QRZ, etc, may only work one station in response to that call; they must then move at least 1 kHz before working another station or 5 kHz before soliciting another call. Once you are required to QSY, you may not make a new QSO on the previous frequency until you have made a contact at least 1 or 5 kHz (as required) away. Team competition. Awards. Electronic entries accepted. Send CW logs to Mark Obermann, AG9A, 6713 Forestview Ln, Niles, IL 60714; cwsprint@ncjweb.com; phone logs go to Rick Niswander, Box 2701, Greenville, NC 27836; ssbsprint@ncjweb.com, no later than 30 days after the end of the contest. www.ncjweb.com/

End of Summer PSK-31 Sprint, sponsored by QRP ARCI, PSK-31 only, 2000-2359Z Sep 19, 20 meters only, work stations once. Categories single op, multi-op, and DX. Exchange RST, State/Province/Country (SPC), ARCI number or power for non-members. Count 5 points for members, 4 points for non-member different continent and 2 points for non-member same continent. Multipliers are SPC. Power multiplier is $>5 W=x1$; $1-5 W=x7$; $250 mW-1 W=x10$; $<250 mW=x15$. Final score is QSO points x total SPCs x Power Multiplier. Suggested frequency is 14070.15. Send log within 30 days to Randy Foltz, 809 Leith St, Moscow, ID 83843; rfoltz@turbonet.com; personal.palouse.net/rfoltz/arci/psk31.htm.

ARRL 10 GHz and Up Cumulative Contest. See July QST, p 120.

North American Sprint, phone, see Sep 8-10.

Washington State Salmon Run, sponsored by Western Washington DX Club. 1600Z Sep 15 to 0700Z Sep 16 and 1600-2400Z Sep 16. 160 80 40 20 15 10 6 meters; classes CW, SSB or mixed mode; QRP, low power (less than 200 W) and high power, Single or multi-op single transmitter, Washington Club Station, Mobile, Washington County DXpedition, SWL RS(T) and county for WA stations; RS(T) and state, province, or DXCC entity for stations outside WA. 2 pts/SSB QSO, 4/CW QSO. Work stations on each band and mode. Portables and mobiles may

be worked for QSOs and multiplier credits in different counties. Multipliers for WA stations is States, Provinces, DX entities and WA counties; for others it is Washington Counties. Count multipliers once regardless of band or mode. Special bonus station a QSO with W7DX will add a 500 point bonus for each mode--total 1000 points. Scoring: QSO points from all bands x total multipliers plus bonus points. Awards. Send logs by Oct 31 to Western Washington DX Club, PO Box 395, Mercer Island, WA 98040, salmonrun@wwdxc.org; www.wwdxc.org/salmonrun.

Tennessee QSO Party, sponsored by the Tennessee Contest Group, 1800Z Sep 16 to 0100Z Sep 17. All bands excluding 30, 17 and 12 meters. Send RS(T) and state/province/DXCC entity (TN stations send county). TN stations work anyone; others work only TN stations. No repeater or packet robot contacts. Score 2 pts HF phone, 3 pts HF CW or digital, 4 pts VHF/UHF phone, 6 pts VHF/UHF CW QSO. Multipliers are TN counties (95 max); TN stations, total of states/provinces/DXCC entities. You may claim an additional multiplier for each 5 QSOs you make with the same TN county. 100/pts for working K4TCG on each band/mode. TN mobile stations get 500 pts for each TN county from which 15 or more QSOs are made. CW, 3.540 7.040 14.040 21.040 28.040; phone, 3.900 7.240 14.280 21.390 28.390; Novice/Tech, 3.700 7.130 21.140 22.140 28.390 50.195 144.195 146.550 223.50 446.000. Awards. Send logs postmarked by Nov 12 to Tennessee QSO Party, c/o Douglas Smith, W9WI, 1385 Old Clarksville Pike, Pleasant View, TN 37146-8098; w9wi@bellsouth.net; www.k4ro.net/tcg.htm/.

Radio Club Panama XXX Anniversary Contest, sponsored by Radio Club Panama, 1200-2359Z Sep 23. Phone, PSK31 and CW, Single op only, 40 20 meters. Send RS and serial no. Score 2 pts/QSO with HP stations who are RCP members and 1 pt/QSO with other stations. Multiply by DXCC entities worked. Send logs to Radio Club Panama, Box 10745, Panama 4, Panama; hp1rcp@qsl.net; www.radioclubdepanama.org.

Louisiana QSO Party, sponsored by the Twin City Hams ARC, 1400Z Sep 29 to 0200Z Sep 30 and from 1400-2000Z Sep 30. 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meters. Send summary sheet and log sheet by Oct 31 to TCHC Contest Committee, PO Box 1871, West Monroe, LA 70291; laqp@tchams.org; www.tchams.org/users/contest/laqp.

Texas QSO Party, sponsored by the Northwest Amateur Radio Society, 1400Z Sep 29 to 0200Z Sep 30, and 1400Z-2000Z Sep 30. MM

Alabama QSO Party, sponsored by the Central Alabama HF/VHF Contesting Club, 1800-0000Z Sep 29. QSO Party, 4525 Eastern Hills Ln, Cottondale, AL 35453; dxcc@dbtech.net; web.dbtech.net/~dxcc/rules1.htm.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC P.O. Box 942150 Atlanta, GA 31141-2150

New ☐ Renewal ☐ Treasurer Use: Date Paid: _____ Amount: _____ Cash ☐ or Check# _____
Name _____ Call _____ Class _____
Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ E-mail _____ Birth _____
Occupation _____ Spouse's Name _____
Family Names (Included in membership) List Here: _____

Type of Application ☐ Voting \$22 ☐ Associate \$15 ☐ Student \$8 ☐ Family \$2(non-voting)

Are you a member of ARRL (Y/N) _____ Please include my renewal/new membership in ARRL when processing this Application! (Y/N) _____

ARRL Membership Dues are as follows: ☐ Regular ☐ Family/Blind ☐ 65 or older (Proof of age required)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 year	\$34	\$5	\$28
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 year	\$65	\$10	\$53
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 year	\$92	\$15	\$76

ARRL Dues include subscription to QST Magazine (Except Family/Blind memberships)

DUES PAID: ARC \$ _____ + FAMILY \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____
ARRL \$ _____ + FAMILY \$ _____ TOTAL \$ _____

(Continued from page 3)

something purely because it is the right thing to do, without hope of monetary reward.

It strengthens your community.

The Peachtree Road Race, the Georgia Games, or any number of other walks, dogshows and runs would not be as safe, organized and enjoyable without amateur radio.

It helps the economy. Hamfests put money back into our community. You can also save on your taxes when you donate gear to the club.

It can teach useful skills. Want to improve your knowledge of electronics of communications? You may get free on-the-job training. Have you been out of the workforce? Volunteering may be a painless way for you to get back into the routine of working before taking the plunge into a paid position. And if you're looking for a career change, community service is a networker's dream. You can meet people who may offer oppor-

tunities you've never thought of.

It can strengthen your family.

Most people who shy away from volunteering insist they just don't have the time to give after fulfilling work and family commitments. Community activists say you can successfully combine volunteer service with family. John Talipsky did a good thing when he brought his spouse and infant son to club events. "Volunteer projects bring family members closer. It brings them in touch with other strong families. It lets them do something that is truly worthwhile and is lots of fun - together."

Usually participation in the club means having fun, else why would you do it? Working on the repeaters from the 55th floor of the bank tower is *fun*, and so is rising at 5:30AM to help out with the boneyard at Hamfest. Never forget that one person can make a world of difference. Participating in the Atlanta Radio Club can benefit both you, the economy and the community!

73's Penn, K4PE

Paul Toth, NA4AR

(Continued from page 4)

pability, particularly in our Hurricane prone areas."

Toth is no stranger to Public Service and Emergency Communications. He has worked dozens of Special Events supporting the American Diabetes Association, the MS Society, the American Heart Association, the March of Dimes and others. He assisted the Red Cross with communications at the TWA 800 Disaster Recovery site on Long Island in 1996.

Toth says he would be a highly visible Vice Director, if elected. "Our efforts in West Central Florida have given the membership a new sense of ownership. I want to know how our ARRL members

stand on the issues", says Toth. Toth welcomes questions and comments. He can be reached via email at na4ar@arrl.net. You will also find him at many Hamfests, Club meetings and on the air.

ATLANTA RADIO CLUB, INC
PO BOX 720398
ATLANTA, GA 30358



MEETING NOTICE SEPTEMBER 6, 2001

(Continued from page 1)

tion off and on, "and the middle beacon popped back up."

According to Mills, the beacon glitch has occurred before and may be related to critical software timing issues. "This event will be studied further, and we will watch closely for several days to see if this occurs again," he said. If it does, ground controllers will try to make changes to the spacecraft's software to prevent a recurrence.

AO-40's S1 transmitter recently failed after only a short time of operation. Attempts to restore it have failed.

The RUDAK has been turned off temporarily, but the schedule will remain in place. For now, there will be no middle beacon and no RUDAK from MA=30 to 44. AMSAT-NA says AO-40 is entering a long period during which the Earth eclipses the sun near perigee. During September, eclipses will peak at 85 minutes. In order to conserve the batteries the S2 transmitter, including the middle beacon, will be off from MA 220 to 250. The on/off times will be adjusted as the eclipse periods change. Eclipse periods will continue well into June of next year.

UPCOMING HAMFEST – SOUTHEAST

9-8 Platinum Coast ARS Melbourne, FL
<http://www.pcars.org>

9-14 Mobile ARC Mobile, AL
<http://www.angelfire.com/al/marc3/festham.html>

9-15 Paulding ARC Dallas, GA
<http://www.pauldingarc.com>

9-29 Wiregrass ARC Dothan, AL

9-29 Daytona Beach ARA Ormond Beach, FL
<http://dbara.org>

10-13 ARC of Augusta Augusta, GA

10-20/21 Northwest Georgia ARC Rome, GA
<http://www.wavegate.com/~chall/Home.html>